

Economic Update

May 2008



Business Briefs

Consumers in Newfoundland and Labrador purchased 3,295 new vehicles in February 2008, an increase of 53.5 per cent over February 2007. According to seasonally adjusted data from Statistics Canada's New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey, Newfoundland and Labrador led the country in new motor vehicle sales in February. Nationally, the number of new motor vehicles sold increased by 8.9 per cent. www.statcan.ca

The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) is accepting nominations for the 2008 **Young Entrepreneur Awards**. Thirteen award winners (aged 19 to 35), one from each province and territory, will be recognized for their business and leadership accomplishments. Nominations must be received by May 30, 2008. Application forms can be downloaded from the BDC's website: www.bdc.ca

St. John's based Fortis Inc. and its advisors have been named 2007 Deal Team of the Year for the \$1.4 billion acquisition of the natural gas distribution arm of Terasen Inc. According to the judges of the inaugural 2007 Canadian Dealmakers Awards, the clear logic of the power utility

company's Terasen takeover made it stand out. The Awards are sponsored by Deloitte, Lexpert, The Globe and Mail, and Thomson Financial.

Orphan Industries Ltd., a member of the D.F. Barnes group of companies, has been named the *Newfoundland and Labrador Exporter of the Year*. Orphan Industries is renowned for its manufacturing of Launch and Recovery Systems (LARS). These are large mechanical devices used to launch and recover Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) for use in the offshore oil and gas industry.

The provincial government recently announced the elimination of the provincial 15% retail sales tax on insurance premiums, effective January 1, 2008. The tax had applied to consumers, businesses, municipalities, and the not-for-profit sector.

City Building Permits (April 28, 2008)

Type	2007	2008
Commercial	\$16,134,390	\$10,026,485
Industrial	1,524,967	1,755,000
Institutional	4,520,500	10,233,114
Residential	17,185,098	18,441,316
Repairs	435,830	551,350
Total	\$39,800,785	\$41,007,265



Economic Indicators

- The New Housing Price Index for St. John's Metro increased by 12.2% to 148.5 in February 2008
- The Consumer Price Index for St. John's Metro increased by 2.0% to 112.5 in March 2008

Labour Force Characteristics, St. John's Metro, (three-month moving average unadjusted)

	Mar 08	Chg.
Labour Force	102,300	4.8%
Unemployment Rate	8.7%	0.9pt
Employment Rate	60.9%	1.8pt
Participation Rate	66.7%	2.5pt

ST. JOHN'S

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
TOURISM & CULTURE

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Business Approvals

Grow Crazy, 55 Stamp's Lane

Doctor's clinic, 290 Lemarchant Rd.

Nails by Nina, 120 Lemarchant Rd.

Used car sales, 207 Kenmount Rd.

Agency, 215 Water St.

Spring, Avalon Mall

Newfound Icelandic Designs, 191 Water St.

G. Hancock Framing, Avalon Mall

One to One Pharmacy, 430 Topsail Rd.

Medic Link Systems Ltd., 143 Lemarchant Rd.

Model Citizen, 179-183 Duckworth St.

New Home Based Business

CST Consultants Inc., 19 1/2 Pine Bud Ave.

Family child care service, 29 Bulger Pl

Office for Deep Country Lodge, 97 Radio Range Rd.

Construction and renovation business, 35 Bay Bulls Rd.

Travel agent, 129 Bonaventure Ave.

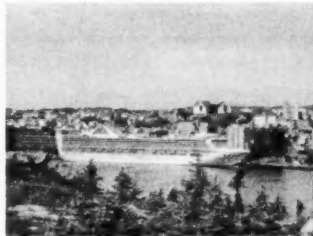
On-line sales, 12 Lawton Cres.

Office for NL Press, 4 Meighen St.

K&J Contracting, 148A Doyle's Rd.

City Initiatives

The City of St. John's will be among the large delegation from Newfoundland and Labrador travelling to Houston for the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) taking place from May 5th - 8th. OTC is the premier offshore oil and gas industry event for professionals, service industries and suppliers to gather and discuss common issues of ocean resource development. St. John's will also be exhibiting at the Global Petroleum Show during June 10th - 12th, at Stampede Park in Calgary. This year marks the 20th Global Petroleum Show, an event renowned for first-rate presentation of the latest in technology in the fields of onshore and offshore exploration as well as production and transportation.



The 2008 cruise season gets underway May 9 with the arrival of the Minerva. Operated by Phoenix Reisen Cruises of Germany the vessel will be carrying approximately 400 passengers and crew. Between May and October, twenty-one vessels are tentatively scheduled to visit the port of St. John's carrying approximately 30,000 passengers and crew. Inaugural calls will be made by Silversea Cruises' "Prince Albert II", Holland America's "Eurodam", Aida Cruises' "Aida Aura", Norwegian Cruises' "Norwegian Jewel", Princess Cruises' "Crown Princess" and Fred Olsen's "Balmoral". For a schedule of cruise visits see: www.stjohns.ca/visitors/cruise/index.jsp

Upcoming Events

Guest Advisor Program – Small Business Financing	May 13	e-mail: info@cbasc.ic.gc.ca
Guest Advisor Program – Income Tax Specialist	May 14	e-mail: info@cbasc.ic.gc.ca
Guest Advisor Program – Legal Services	May 15	e-mail: info@cbasc.ic.gc.ca
Guest Advisor Program – E-Business with Student Connections	May 16	e-mail: info@cbasc.ic.gc.ca
ISO 9001:2000 Overview Workshop	May 20	www.qualitymatters.net
83rd Annual Purchasing Management Association Canada (PMAC) national conference	May 21 – 23	www.pmacnl.org/
Resources (HR) for Business-Information Workshop	May 21	e-mail: info@cbasc.ic.gc.ca
Let's Talk Exports Luncheon	May 26	www.neia.org/EDC2008.pdf
Writing Dynamics Workshop	May 26 – 27	www.mun.ca/cmd
2008 National Standards System (NSS) Conference	Jun 2 – Jun 4	www.scc.ca/en/nss/
Appraisal Institute of Canada	Jun 4–Jun 7	www.aicanada.ca/e/aic2008/
Newfoundland Dental Association	Jun 4–Jun 7	www.nlda.net/

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
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